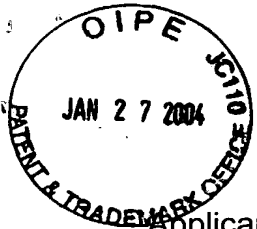


01-29-04



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Darst et al.

Serial No.: 10/672,239

Customer No.: 24961

Conf. No.: 8709

Filed: September 25, 2003

For: PILL BOX AND SPLITTER WITH
BLADE GUARD

Art Unit: 3728

Examiner: Unassigned

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number

EV 417728686US

Date of Deposit 1/27/04

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

1/27/04
Date

Jonathan Ong

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

US Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are an Information Disclosure Statement and Forms PTO-1449 (1 page) for filing in connection with the above-identified application. Because this Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to receipt of a first office action on the merits in the above-referenced application, no fee is due. However, should it be determined that a fee for filing these papers is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 05-1213, as stated below:

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 in connection with this paper or with this application during its entire pendency to Deposit Account No. 05-1213. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By:

Fred C. Hernandez
Registration No. 41,832

Attorney Docket No. 40070-0360

Address all correspondence to:

Stephanie L. Seidman

Fred C. Hernandez

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4350 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite 700

San Diego, CA 92122-1246

Telephone: (858) 450-8400

Facsimile: (858) 587-5360



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Date

Jonathan Ong
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98**

PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Because this Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to receipt of a First Office Action on the Merits for the above-captioned application, a fee for filing this statement should not be due. If, however, it is determined that a fee is due, any fees that may be due in connection with filing this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1213.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to inform the Patent Office of all references known by Applicant or Applicant's representative that may be material to the examination of the subject application, Applicant's representative hereby provides this Information Disclosure Statement that is prepared in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 Forms PTO-1449 (1 page) for filing in connection with the above-captioned application.

The documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 are in the English. Hence, in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, as amended effective March 16,

USSN 10/672,239

Darst et al.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

1992, no further explanation of the listed items is necessary.

Applicant also makes known to the Examiner the following related, co-pending U.S. applications and their status:

| <u>U.S.S.N.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Docket No.</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 29/191,853 | 10/14/03 | Pending | 361DN |
| 60/505,039 | 09/22/03 | Pending | P363 |

Although these documents are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with Applicant's duty of disclosure, such disclosure is not to be construed as an admission by Applicant or Applicant's representative that any of the references, singly or in any combination thereof, is effective as prior art against the subject application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) exists.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the foregoing references and make them of record in the file history of the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By:


Fred C. Hernandez
Registration No. 41,832

Attorney Docket No. 40070-0360

Address all correspondence to:

Stephanie L. Seidman

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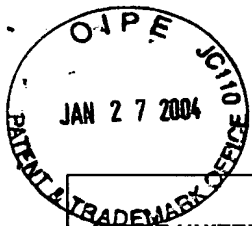
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56, § 1.97, and § 1.98

FORM PTO-1449

Sheet 1 of 1

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.:
10/672,239

ATTY DKT NO.:
40070-0360

CONFIRM NO.:
8709

APPLICANTS:
Darst, *et al.*

CUSTOMER NO.:
24961

FILING DATE:
September 25, 2003

GROUP ART UNIT:
3728

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| † EX'R INITIAL | *REF. # | PATENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | U.S. CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE (if appropriate) |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | A | 2,655,259 | 10/13/53 | W.F. Davoren | 206/42 | 11/15/49 |
| | B | 3,175,746 | 03/30/96 | Gordon, et al. | 225/104 | 10/23/63 |
| | C | 3,439,664 | 04/22/69 | Sylvester | 125/23 | 03/08/67 |
| | D | 3,517,871 | 06/30/70 | Gaffney, et al. | 225/103 | 11/15/68 |
| | E | 4,009,651 | 03/01/77 | Adams | 99/579 | 11/03/78 |
| | F | 4,179,806 | 12/25/79 | Lieptz | 30/124 | 01/03/78 |
| | G | 4,422,553 | 12/27/83 | Höcks, et al. | 206/528 | 09/17/82 |
| | H | 5,020,037 | 05/28/91 | Raven | 368/10 | 01/26/89 |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| † EX'R INITIAL | *REF. # | Patent No. | Date | Country | Translation |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------|---------|-------------|
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OTHER DOCUMENTS

| † EX'R INITIAL | *REF. # | CITATION (Author, Article Title, Journal/Book Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) |
|-------------------|------------|---|
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EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE

DATE CONSIDERED

† EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. *Include copy of this form in next communication to applicant.*

* If an asterisk is placed beside the reference number, a copy is not provided because the reference was previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in a prior application that is identified in the statement and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d).

Title: **PILL BOX AND SPLITTER WITH BLADE GUARD**